

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEGUCI 03867 161426Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 BIB-01
DEAE-00 IO-13 JUSE-00 CTME-00 SNM-05 TRSE-00
OES-09 OMB-01 /086 W
-----107181 171214Z /44

R 141943Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBSSY TEGUCIGALPA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1222
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
USCINCSO
USICA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 3867

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, SNAR, HO
SUBJ: GOH DEFENDS MELGAR AGAINST DRUG ACCUSATIONS

REF: TEGUCIGALPA 3833

1. A COMMUNIQUE AUTHORIZED BY THE MILITARY JUNTA DATED AUGUST 11 "ENERGETICALLY REJECTS" THE CALUMNIES MADE AGAINST GENERAL MELGAR IN THE FOREIGN PRESS. IN ADDITION, LOCAL CORRESPONDENTS OF WIRE SERVICES (UPI, AP, EFE) HAVE PUBLICLY PROTESTED WHAT THEY DESCRIBED AS MALICIOUS TAMPERING WITH INFORMATION AS IT HAD BEEN TRANSMITTED FROM HONDURAS.

2. COMMENT: GOH COMMUNIQUE CAME AFTER WIDESPREAD PUBLIC COMMENT THAT AN OFFICIAL STATEMENT WAS NEEDED. ALTHOUGH NOT SATISFYING EVERYBODY, IT AND THE CLARIFICATION GIVEN BY THE VOICE OF AMERICA (REFTEL) SHOULD RESOLVE MATTER FOR MOST PERSONS WHO EXPRESSED PUBLICLY AND TO EMBOFFS THEIR DISMAY OVER IMPLICATION MELGAR WAS
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PAGE 02 TEGUCI 03867 161426Z

REMOVED FOR INVOLVEMENT N DRUGS. CONCERNED PERSON INCLUDED NOT ONLY CESAR BATRES, BUT OTHERS NOT CLOSELY LINKED TO GENERAL MELGAR WHO ALSO FELT ALLEGATIONS WERE UNFAIR.

3. AT THE SAME TIME, THE JUNTA GARNERED A LITTLE GOODWILL FOR ITSELF BY DEFENDING MELGAR WHEN HE HAD FALLEN FROM POWER AND PERHAPS MAKING IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR THE JUNTA TO BE ATTACKED BECAUSE

OF THE NARCOTICS SCANDAL. THIS DEFENSE IS A CONTRAST TO THE USUAL PRACTISE OF IGNORING OR DENIGRATING PREVIOUS GOVERNMENTS AND TESTIFIES TO THE GENERALLY GOOD REPUTATION ENJOYED BY MELGAR INCLUDING WITHIN THE MILITARY. IN FACT, WHILE MELGAR'S POLITICAL INFLUENCE AND PROSPECTS ARE MINIMAL AT THE MOMENT, THIS RESPECT AND REPUTATION FOR DECENCY MIGHT SERVE AS A BASIS FOR A COMEBACK AS AN ACCEPTABLE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE TO WHOM THE COUNTRY, IN THE RIGHT CIRCUMSTANCES, MIGHT TURN.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: JUNTA, DRUG TRAFFIC, COMMUNIQUE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978TEGUCI03867
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Expiration:
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Message ID: 191c8663-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Reference: 78 TEGUCIGALPA 3833
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
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Review Release Event: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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TAGS: PINT, PGOV, SNAR, HO, (MELGAR CASTRO, JUAN ALBERTO)
To: STATE GUATEMALA
Type: TE
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Review Markings:
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